

What is claimed is:

1. A method (30) for enabling or disabling an attribute used in respect to communication between a NodeB and a user equipment (UE) device, the NodeB operative according to control by a radio network controller (RNC) of a radio access network (RAN) using System Information Blocks (SIBs) communicated between elements of the RAN and communicated to the UE device in radio contact with the RAN as a way of configuring communication channels provided by the RAN, the method characterized by:

a step (35) in which the NodeB configures itself for communication with the UE device according to a trigger field (40) consisting of at least one bit (41) included in at least one of the SIBs, wherein the at least one bit (41) corresponds to the attribute; and

a step (35) in which the NodeB transmits to the UE device the SIB including the trigger field.

2. A method as in claim 1, the method further characterized by a step (34) in which the RNC communicates to the NodeB information sufficient to indicate the trigger field.

3. A method as in claim 1, further characterized by a step (36) in which the UE device configures itself for communication with the NodeB according to the trigger field and transmits to the NodeB a confirmation or other response to receipt of the SIB including the trigger field.

4. A method as in claim 3, wherein the trigger field is used to prompt a response from the UE device, and the method is further characterized by a step in which the NodeB completes a procedure upon receipt of the response from the UE device.

5. A method as in claim 3, further characterized by a step in which, upon receipt of the response from the UE, the NodeB communicates the response to the RNC.

5 6. A method as in claim 1, further characterized in that the trigger field (40) consists of a plurality of bits (41) each of which corresponds to a predetermined attribute governing communication between the UE device and the NodeB, and one of each of the two possible bit values of the respective bits (41) is predetermined to indicate enabling the corresponding
10 attribute.

7. A method as in claim 1, further characterized in that a plurality of SIBs are each used to convey a respective trigger field (40) and each such trigger field consists of at least one bit (41) predetermined to correspond to a respective
15 attribute governing communication between the UE device and the NodeB.

8. A method as in claim 1, further characterized in that the trigger field (40) communicated to the NodeB by the RNC is a limit trigger field consisting of a plurality of bits and
20 understood by the NodeB to indicate not a particular set of attributes but instead a limit on a multi-valued attribute, and the method is further characterized by steps (36 37 38 39), performed after the RNC communicates to the NodeB the limit trigger field (40), in which the NodeB repetitively
25 communicates a value-setting trigger field (40) indicating a value within the limit set by the limit trigger field (40).

9. A method as in claim 8, wherein the UE device responds to receipt of each of the value-setting trigger fields (40), and further wherein the communicating of the value-setting trigger
30 fields (40) and corresponding responses forming a closed loop message sequence involving the NodeB and the UE device but not

involving the RNC.

10. A NodeB comprising means so as to be operative according to the steps of the method of claim 1.

5 11. An RNC comprising means so as to be operative according to respective steps of the method of claim 2.

12. A UE device comprising means so as to be operative according to respective steps of the method of claim 3.

10 13. A RAN, comprising an RNC and a plurality of NodeBs, the RNC and at least one NodeB each comprising means so as to be operative according to respective steps of claim 2.